

ENERGIZE CLINTON COUNTY

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Weatherize Clinton County: A plan for near-term economic stimulus in Clinton County

Prepared by Energize Clinton County
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It is estimated that Clinton County will lose more than 10,000 jobs and more than \$450 million in economic activity as a direct result of the closure of the DHL hub. In order to stabilize the local economy and empower the community to build a sustainable economic future, Clinton County is in need of an **innovative and effective emergency economic stimulus** that combines a near-term economic stimulus with a strategy for achieving long-term economic recovery.

We believe that the stimulus program should seek to accomplish four goals: **(1) create** locally based, “shovel ready” jobs, **(2) increase** local economic activity through spending and infrastructure investment, **(3) encourage** savings through energy efficiency, and **(4) demonstrate** Ohio’s commitment to serving as a leader in green economic development.

To meet these four important goals—as well as the broader goal of combining economic stimulus and recovery—we propose that Clinton County serve as a **pilot for the country’s largest and most targeted weatherization program to date.**

Directly, the weatherization program will provide training for Clinton County’s displaced workers in “**Green Collar Jobs**” while **promoting the growth of local businesses** that sell weatherization supplies and services. Indirectly, the program’s economic impact will be multiplied by the increase in household expenditures derived from **energy savings averaging 25% per weatherized home.** Such a targeted and ambitious effort will make Ohio and Clinton County models for the use of green economic development in addressing the immediate needs of an economic crisis.

This emergency stimulus can only be achieved through a **direct government grant** to Clinton County from the economic stimulus package being proposed by the incoming Obama administration. Facing an unprecedented economic calamity, Clinton County’s recovery rests on the quick and directed action of our state and federal representatives to secure an immediate government grant for a local stimulus program. Clinton County can not wait for funding from traditional channels nor can it afford to have its needs underestimated by traditional allotment systems.

The following chart highlights five program scenarios, each with a projection for cost, economic benefits, and job creation. We believe that for such a stimulus package to be effective in providing a near-term stabilization to the local economy, it must be a minimum of **\$20 million** and seek to create at least **1,000 jobs.**

# of homes	Total Cost*	Economic benefits**	Jobs Created***
1,000	\$2,787,248	\$7,190,766	132
2,000	\$5,574,496	\$14,381,532	263
5,000	\$13,936,239	\$35,953,829	658
7,500	\$20,904,359	\$53,930,744	987
10,000	\$27,872,479	\$71,907,659	1,316

--*Cost per home = \$2,787.25, Source: Home Weatherization Assistance Program 2008 State Plan
 --**Return per home = \$7,190.77; *** Jobs per home = 7.6; (sum of economic benefits and jobs created estimated using the summed impact of **program spending** and **increased household expenditures** through increased *personal income, property income, & indirect business taxes*)
 Source: Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program Impact Evaluation (2006);

Expanding the HWAP model:

The Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) is implemented by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and is overseen by the department's Office of Energy Efficiency. Currently, HWAP is delivered through a network of 58 community and local government agencies, including the **Clinton County Community Action Program**. HWAP has shown itself to be an effective and efficient program for providing weatherization training and services, and should serve as the framework for implementing a weatherization grant in Clinton County. On average, HWAP weatherization **reduces energy costs by 25%** for the households that receive the procedures. The following services offered by HWAP will make up the foundational services funded by the Weatherize Clinton County grant:

- » Energy inspections and audits to determine what energy efficiency measures are appropriate and if other repairs are necessary before weatherization can be conducted
- » Installation of weatherization and any necessary health and safety measures, including: **air leakage reduction procedures, attic insulation, duct insulation, floor insulation, furnace replacement (when deemed unsafe or dysfunctional), furnace tune-up & repair, wall insulation, and water heater insulation**
- » Client energy education to help empower recipients to take specific actions that will result in increased control of their energy consumption, energy costs, and comfort
- » Final inspection of the measure installation

Scaling up HWAP for the Weatherize Clinton County program provides a unique opportunity for Ohio to expand one of its most successful programs to provide economic stimulus, building a case study for the future use of large scale weatherization programs. We believe that such an ambitious job creating, energy conservation initiative in the context of Clinton County's economic crisis will make the county a model for energy efficient communities, and the state of Ohio a model for its support of green economic development initiatives.

Eligibility & Priority for Participation:

The HWAP program currently uses the 150% of the Federal poverty level as the upper income limit for eligibility in its program, with priority given to vulnerable populations: the elderly, persons with disabilities, families & children, high residential energy users, households with high energy burdens.

Given the unique economic crisis being faced by Clinton County, we believe that the system of determining eligibility and priority be modified and expanded to meet our specific needs. We propose that eligibility and priority be determined by a point system based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- » WARN notice recipient
- » Unemployed or under-employed
- » Home owner
- » Income level
- » Recently purchased home
- » Pre-consumption energy levels
- » Facing foreclosure
- » Disabled or elderly residents in the home
- » Young children in the home
- » Number of occupants
- » Length of time on the waiting list
- » No heating (due to equipment problems)
- » Arrearages
- » Eligibility for utility weatherization programs
- » Health and safety issues in the home
- » Referral from a home repair or rehabilitation program
- » Other assistance received
- » HEAP or PIPP participation
- » Landlord contribution
- » Loan contribution

Grant & Program Administration:

Given that Weatherize Clinton County is focused dually on providing near-term economic stimulus and laying the groundwork for broader economic recovery strategy, we believe that it is essential that **every step be taken to ensure that the grant is spent within the local economy** to maximize the program's multiplying effect. We propose that the grant be administered by the **Clinton County Regional Planning Commission**, in close collaboration with the **Wilmington Economic Taskforce**. We recommend that partnerships be established with organizations that specialize in key areas to provide the necessary expertise to meet the goals of the program:

- » **Clinton County Regional Planning Commission** – Grant administration and program implementation
- » **Clinton County Community Action Program** – Local consultant for training, technology, knowledge and best practices
- » **The Ohio Weatherization Training Center** – Weatherization training
- » **Energize Clinton County** – Community outreach and energy education